



REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of March 25, 2005, claims 1, 27 and 35 have been amended and claims 8, 10 and 31 have been cancelled. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present application are distinguished over the cited prior art.

More particularly with reference to paragraph 2 of the Official Action, claims 1, 7-11, 13, 14, 17 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Orfali et al (hereinafter Orfali). The Orfali reference incorporates the CORBA specification/documentation and, for purposes of the examination, the Examiner relies upon the CORBA document entitled "CORBA services: Common Object Services Specification" (CORBA_1 hereafter). The Examiner goes on to specifically recite particular pages of CORBA_1 to set forth arguments that claim 1 is anticipated.

Claim 1 has been amended to particularly point out and claim that the recited method for providing services for clients associated with a data communication network comprises the step of broadcasting from said at least one external device provider offers that associate with services to an interface entity associated with the data network. Thus, service offers are broadcast to the interface entity and all interfaces required for providing a service connection can then be established based on information communicated by means of a protocol. Claim 1 has further been amended to set forth the following step: "establishing all interfaces required for providing a service connection based on information communicated by means of said protocol." Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification, including at page 15, lines 18-26 and in Figure 2.

As is known the art, CORBA_1 discloses an Object Management Group (OMG) trading object service that facilitates the offering and discovery of services of particular types. Thus, in order to export, an object gives a trader a description of a service and the location of an interface where that service is available. In order to import, an object asks the trader for a service having certain characteristics. The trader then checks against the service descriptions that it holds and

responds to the importer with the location of the selected services interface. The importer is then able to interact with the service.

However, CORBA_1 does not disclose a system in which offers are broadcast from an external service provider to an interface entity.

CORBA_1 also does not disclose or suggest establishing interfaces required for providing a service connection based on information communicated by means of a protocol that enables initiation of a service provisioning session.

As seen in the present application at page 4, line 21 through page 5, line 8, in the CORBA_1 model the open interfaces need to be defined for each service by the operator. The interfaces must also be mapped to the interface protocol. The need for this mapping is because the network protocols used by the carrier network are not necessarily visible for the external service providers. However, the slow and flexible nature of the CORBA_1 interface makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the interfaces to be changed. The CORBA_1 interfaces do not allow third party service providers to advertise their services to potential clients, such as network operators, in a manner such that clients may then select or use one or more of these services.

In contrast, according to the present invention as claimed in amended claim 1, the data network is enabled to select the external services from those which are broadcast to it. These services are then assessable to clients by the interface entity and a service connection between the client and the external service provider can then be enabled using a protocol which contains information suitable for establishing all interfaces required for connection. Thus, the present invention overcomes the inflexibility of interfaces defined according to the CORBA_1 specification. Furthermore, by broadcasting offers, an enhanced method is provided by which the external service providers can advertise their service capability to potential clients.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is distinguished over the CORBA_1 specification including the specific recitations made in the Official Action with regard to claim 1.

Independent claim 27 directed to a service interface arrangement for a data network is rejected at paragraph 4 of the Official Action as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Orfali and other references that it incorporates. Claim 27 has been amended in a manner similar to

method claim 1. It is noted that at page 9 of the Official Action, claim 27 is stated as substantively incorporating the limitations of claim 1 and that the reasons for the rejections of claims 1, 5, 7-9, 12, 17, 22 and 23 equally apply to claims 27-29 and 31-35. Since claim 27 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that for similar reasons, Orfali taken alone or in combination with other references incorporated therein, does not suggest amended claim 27.

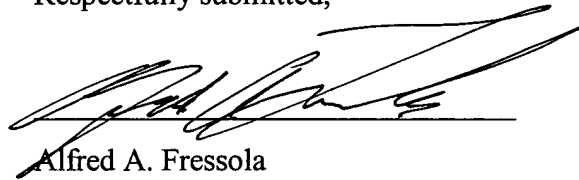
Similarly, independent claim 35, directed to a data communication system, is rejected at paragraph 4 for the same reasons as that with regard to claim 27. As indicated above, claim 27 is rejected for the same reasons as with regard to claim 1 and since claim 35 is amended in a manner similar to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that it is not obvious in view of Orfali taken alone or in combination with other references cited therein for the same reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Since independent claims 1, 27 and 35 are all believed to be distinguished over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims thereto are further distinguished over the cited art.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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